



State Workforce Innovation Board Meeting  
Wednesday, August 23, 2023  
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Remote – [Video Recording](#)

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dylan Klapmeier (Governor Gianforte Designee), Superintendent Elsie Arntzen, Commissioner Sarah Swanson, Senator Mark Noland, Representative Kerri Seekins-Crowe, Commissioner Mary Armstrong, Commissioner Mike McGinley, Chair Paul Hopfauf, Vice-Chair Dean Bentley, Chanda Hermanson, Shane Etwiler, Paddy Fleming, Adam Gilbertson, Heather O’Hara, David Smith, Amber Terry, Bo Bruinsma, Dale Carpenter, Jim Wonnacott, Jason Palin

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Deb Poteet and Quinton Queer

**STAFF:** Wesley Feist

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Jacquie Treaster (OCHE), Katie Madsen (OPI), Andy Shirtliff (MT DLI), Jason Butcher (Reach Higher MT), Mandy Rambo (Commerce), Barb Wagner (MT DLI), Jasyn Harrington (CTI), John Elizandro (MT DLI), Kelly Cresswell (Reach Higher Montana), Scott Osterman (Commerce), Erin Weisgerber (MT DLI), Webb Brown, Sarah De Money (Career Futures), Crystal Armstrong (MT DLI), Michelle Marsh (MT DLI), Katie Madsen (MT OPI), Barb Wagner (MT DLI), Mike Williams (MT DLI), Ryan Van Ballegooyen (MT DLI), Anna Smith (Montana Primary Care Association), Amanda Frickle (MT AFL-CIO), Lauren Swant (Carroll College), Jane Demaray (MT DLI), Deb Krantz (MT DLI)

**CALL TO ORDER (10:03 A.M.):** Chair Hopfauf called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL (10:03 A.M.):** Wesley Feist completed Roll Call. A quorum was present.

**AGENDA:** Chair Hopfauf asked for a motion to approve the agenda.  
*Adam Gilbertson moved, and Commissioner Mary Armstrong seconded a motion to approve the agenda.*  
*The motion carried.*

**REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT (10:07 A.M.):** Chair Hopfauf asked for public comment.  
No public comment was provided.

**MAY 9, 2023 MEETING MINUTES (10:08 A.M.):** Chair Hopfauf asked for a motion to approve the May 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes.

***Senator Mark Noland moved, and Vice Chair Dean Bentley seconded a motion to approve the agenda.***

***The motion carried.***

**DLI – COMMISSIONER INTRODUCTION (10:08 A.M.):** Commissioner Swanson introduced herself and outlined her primary focuses which include: Relationships (Industry and stakeholders, education, and legislature), Unemployment Division Modernization, and Job Service Offices.

**OPI – CAREER COACH INTRODUCTIONS (10:13 A.M.):** Mary Heller Delivered update on status of OPI Career Coaches. Each introduced themselves and a contact list is available in the online agenda. Adam Gilbertson asked about sustainable funding for the career coaches and how will data modernization efforts be utilized with the career coaches. Superintendent outlined current and potential funding sources. She also outlined data modernization efforts.

**OPI – PERKINS STATE PLAN REVIEW (10:30 A.M.):** Superintendent Arntzen provided a brief overview of the recent Perkins funding allocations and the OPI timeline. Vice-Chair Bentley asked if the Tech Hub grant is obtained, how would it impact Perkins and WIOA. Commissioner Swanson indicated that the Tech Hub will take into account all state and federal programs.

**DLI - WSD 2.0 SYSTEM AND RESEA UDATE (10:35 A.M.):** Barb Wagner provided an update on a new technology platform implementation for Workforce Services Division case management system. Board members indicated that they are looking forward to the upgrades and new system! Heather O'Hara asked if updates be provided at SWIB meetings moving forward. Barb indicated she is happy to provide updates and walk throughs.

Barb Wagner also provided a presentation on the Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) Program. Vice-Chair Bentley asked if the 124 individuals are at the benefit exhaustion period? Barb described how the RESEA program picks up the unemployed individuals at the beginning of the unemployment time, to avoid getting them to the exhaustion time. Vice-Chair Bentley also asked if there is a geographical region of high skilled workers? Barb indicated there are some trends, and in some industries. Currently, the data does not show any geographic or industry trends.

**WORK-BASED LEARNING COLLABORATIVE UPDATE (11:03 A.M.):** Kelly Cresswell provided an update on Reach Higher Montana and the Montana Work-based Learning Collaborative. Bo Bruinsma described the benefits of participating in the WBLC. Shane Etwiler invited Kelly Cresswell to the workforce directors' meetings with the state chambers of commerce. Mary Heller asked if all apprenticeships through the collaborative are registered apprenticeships. Kelly identified that some are registered and they go through the process, some apprenticeships not. It is the choice of

participants. Mary Heller also asked about funding. Kelly described the funding sources for the collaborative. Adam Gilbertson asked about SB 444 pertaining to work-based learning has impacted Reach Higher and the collaborative. Kelly identified that the legislation helps clarify what is considered work-based learning and will still provide for additional opportunities. Vice-Chair Bentley asked why Reach Higher Montana is not working in the AA Schools. Kelly identified that is because of resources and capacity to focus on rural and small schools.

**STATE NURSING WORKFORCE CENTER (11:36 A.M.):** Heather O'Hara and Lauren Swant provided a presentation on the State Nursing Workforce Center and opportunities with the SWIB. Chair Hopfauf appreciates the idea of broadening data collection to then explore the focus of funding and priorities. Lauren Swant considers collaboration with the SWIB to provide clear guidelines for growth around the state and more clearly identify barriers and allocation opportunities. Vice Chair Bentley asked how private organizations entering into the Nursing training world are receptive to entities training and employing nurses. Heather identified that they tend to be collaborative, as the data sharing is helpful all around. Lauren Swant identified to be recognized as "the State Nursing Workforce Center", there can only be one. With that, there is a forced collaboration to ensure obtaining National Resource Center resources and opportunities. Senator Noland identified that it would be helpful to have additional data for legislative decision making among other things. Chair Hopfauf asked how this opportunity can be moved forward. Wes Feist offered to assist with moving forward and will convene necessary people to determine a clear path forward. An update can be provided in October.

**BREAK (12:13 P.M.):** Break

**SWIB BYLAWS UPDATE REQUEST (12:20 P.M.):** Wes Feist provided a synopsis of required bylaws changes to meet US DOL requirements and a history of the Old Business Action Item. In addition Wes thanked the MT DLI Legal Staff and the Lieutenant Governor for their assistance.

Chair Hopfauf asked for a motion to approve SWIB Bylaws Changes to Sections 204 and 302.3. Dylan Klapmeier and Commissioner Mike McGinley provided support for the revised changes.

**Vice-Chair Dean Bentley made a motion to approve the changes and Amber Terry seconded.**

***The motion carried.***

**SWIB DIRECTOR UPDATE (12:22 P.M.):** Wes Feist provided an update on the following items.

- WIOA State Planning
- WIOA State and Federal Partner Trainings
- 2023 NGA Summer Workforce Symposium in Fargo, ND
- October 2023 SWIB Meeting
- SWIB Director involvement with the State Olmstead Committee (HB 922)

**SWIB CHAIR CLOSING REMARKS (12:35 P.M.)** Chair Hopfauf made closing remarks.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (12:36 P.M.) Public Comment**

Shane Etwiler invited the board and others to the 2023 Worlds of Work Event in Great Falls on Tuesday, September 26. Paddy Fleming invited the board to Manufacturing Day through the first week of October 2023. No additional public comment was provided.

**ADJOURNED (12:38 P.M.):** Chair Hopfauf adjourned the meeting at 12:38 p.m.

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